

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DPW-01 L-02 PM-03

EUR-10 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

PRS-01 RSR-01 /070 W

----- 087739

P R 141011Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9853

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2613

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, HU VN

SUBJECT: FONOFF OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ICCS

REF: A) OTTAWA 1570; B) BUDAPEST 2571; C) WARSAW 3409

1. SUMMARY: CONVERSATION JULY 13 BETWEEN CHARGE AND FONOFF OFFICIAL FROM DEPARTMENT IV (ASIAN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) PROVIDES SOME INSIGHT INTO HUNGARIAN THINKING ON ICCS PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF FINDING SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA. END SUMMARY.

2. RE OTTAWA 1570 SOURCE CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF LIST OF COUNTRIES NOT ACCEPTABLE AS REPLACEMENTS FOR CANADA. ALSO REVEALED EXISTENCE, IT TOO COMPILED BY "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," OF PREFERRED LIST OF CANDIDATES. FORMER INCLUDES UK AND FRANCE, UNACCEPTABLE AS SUPERPOWERS, KOREA AND AUSTRALIA, REJECTED BECAUSE OF PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAM WAR, AND AUSTRIA. ASKED WHY AUSTRIA ON SOCIALIST "BLACK CONFIDENTIAL

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LIST" SOURCE SAID IT STEMMED FROM KURT WALDHEIM'S SPONSOR-

SHIP OF PRG OBSERVER MISSION IN NEW YORK AFTER TALKS WITH MADAME BINH. PRG, SENSITIVE TO ITS LACK OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND LEGITIMACY, CONSIDERS WALDHEIM'S LACK OF ACTION SINCE RUNNING INTO OPPOSITION AS GOING BACK ON A PROMISE.

3. SOURCE SAID GOH ACUTELY AWARE OF DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUCCESSOR TO CANADA ON ICCS, DUE PRIMARILY TO PAUCITY OF ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES. SAID THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM IN FONOFF WHICH HAD ANTICIPATED THAT CANADA'S SUCCESSOR WOULD BE NATO COUNTRY, PERHAPS ITALY, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, OR NORWAY. SAID INABILITY TO FIND ICCS SUCCESSOR TO CANADA RENDERS IT QUITE LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL WEEKS GAP BETWEEN CANADA'S DEPARTURE JULY 31 AND ARRIVAL OF SUCCESSOR CONTINGENT, ASSUMING ONE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES COULD BE FOUND. INTERESTING QUESTION THUS POSED WHETHER THREE-COUNTRY ICCS LEGAL, SINCE ORIGINAL AGREEMENTS SPECIFY FOUR. SOURCE INDICATED EXISTENCE OF CONSIDERABLE PIQUE ON PART OF PRG AND DRV BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY REGARD AS LACK OF COORDINATION BY RVN AND US. URGED THAT CONSULTATIVE PRACTICE WITH DRV AND PRG BE INVOKED, PARTICULARLY IN EVENT EFFORTS TO FIND SUCCESSOR TO CANADA PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL.

4. SOURCE SAID HUNGARIANS HAVE DEFINITE IMPRESSION POLES WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW FROM ICCS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY CAN FIND SOME LEGALISTIC EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY IT, SUCH AS FAILURE OR INABILITY TO FIND FOURTH MEMBER TO REPLACE CANADA. (THERE WAS SLIGHT BUT NEVERTHELESS UNMISTAKEABLE HINT FROM SOURCE AT THIS POINT THAT DRV UNDERLINED TO POLES AND HUNGARIANS THAT IN ITS VIEW AGREEMENT SPECIFIES THERE MUST BE FOUR MEMBER STATES ON ICCS). SOURCE RUEFULLY ADMITTED THAT NEITHER HUNGARIANS NOR POLES REALLY WANTED TO PARTICIPATE ON ICCS BECAUSE THEY SAW IN IT PROSPECT OF DAMAGE TO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US AT TIME WHEN US RELATIONS WITH OTTHER WP COUNTRIES IMPROVING. OPINED THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF POLES BEING PERMITTED TO WITHDRAW.

5. I ASKED SOURCE ABOUT RUMORS (BUDAPEST 2571) CURRENTLY CIRCULATING AROUND BUDAPEST TO EFFECT THAT PHAM VAN DONG'S TALKS IN MOSCOW WITH HIGH SOVIET OFFICIAL, INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

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BREZHNEV, INDICATED SOVIETS TRYING TO PERSUADE HANOI THAT SOME CHANGE IN ITS CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACE-KEEPING MEASURES CALLED FOR. SOURCE SAID HE THOUGHT SOVIETS TRYING TO BRING HANOI AROUND TO THEIR VIEW BUT VIETNAMESE ARE VERY TOUGH-MINDED AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE NOT EASILY SWAYED BY ARGUMENT ONCE THEIR MINDS ARE MADE UP. IF THEY WERE IN EUROPE, HE OPINED, THEY WOULD FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO BE SO STUBBORN IN DEFENSE OF THEIR

VIEWS. SOVIETS, HE DECLARED, FIND IT HARD TO COPE WITH THIS INTRANSIGENCE. SAID GOH BELIEVES SOVIETS DEADLY SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING DETENTE WORK. BREZHNEV HAS COMMITTED HIS PRESTIGE TO MAKING IT WORK AND SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY, SOVIETS WILL FIND WAY TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS WITH HANOI.

6. ASKED ABOUT TIMING OF VISIT OF DRV PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO BUDAPEST SOURCE SAID DATES HAD NOT BEEN PINNED DOWN YET. SAID TIMING DEPENDED ON HOW LONG TALKS IN MOSCOW LAST AND ON COORDINATION OF VISIT OF DRV DELEGATION TO WARSAW, NOW APPARENTLY SET FOR JULY 23. (WE NOTE, HOWEVER DRV FLAGS BEING PUT UP AROUND CITY MORNING JULY 14) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT TO BUDAPEST WOULD EASE LOT OF EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH ICCS OPERATION.

7. AT ONE POINT IN CONVERSATION SOURCE SAID GOH HAD ABSOLUTELY NO OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE WHAT PRG IS, EITHER POLITICALLY OR ORGANIZATIONALLY. "OF COURSE", HE SAID, "BEFORE WE WENT OUT TO VIETNAM WE WERE TOLD WHAT THEY WERE." HE ADDED THAT WHEN HE USED TERM "OBJECTIVE" HE MEANT THAT THE HUNGARIANS HAD DEVELOPED NO INFORMATION ON THEIR OWN FROM WHICH TO DRAW CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS RE PRG POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OJU IMPACT IN VN, THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL SCHEME, OR EVEN STATE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH DRV. SAID EVEN PRESENCE OF PRG MISSION IN BUDAPEST HAD FAILED TO SHED MUCH LIGHT ON THESE MURKY AREAS.

8. RE OTTAWA'S 1570 THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION SOURCE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT GOH EXPECTED ANYTHING OTHER THAN WITHDRAWAL OF CANADIAN CONTINGENT FROM ICCS BY JULY 31.
MUDD

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